

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



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COMMENT PERIOD FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR A BOAT DOCK AND FISHING PIER AT THE REFUGE GATEWAY IN TRENTON, MICHIGAN OPEN THROUGH MAY 22, 2015

Grosse Ile, Michigan – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is making available for public review and comment an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of a boat dock and fishing pier at the Refuge Gateway in Trenton, Michigan that is adjacent to the Visitor Center under construction for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The EA evaluated the No Action Alternative, in which case no fishing pier or dock for a ship supporting the Great Lakes Education Program of Michigan Sea Grant would be constructed. Another option considered was the construction of two floating docks that would be constructed along shore to offer fishing for panfish, but this alternative would not allow for a ship supporting the Great Lakes Education Program of Michigan Sea Grant because of low water depths. The preferred alternative recommended in the EA is to construct a 200-foot fishing pier to offer shore fishing for walleye and other game fishes, and a docking facility for a ship supporting the Great Lakes Education Program of Michigan Sea Grant.

The proposed 200-foot fishing pier will be located at the end of a 775-foot boardwalk off the Refuge Gateway in Trenton, Michigan, consistent with the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The vessel-based education of school children through Great Lakes Education Program of Michigan Sea Grant would complement environmental education programming to be conducted at the 12,000 square foot Visitor Center under construction at the 44-acre Refuge Gateway. The Refuge Gateway is located adjacent to the Refuge's 410-acre Humbug Marsh Unit. Humbug Marsh is Michigan's only Wetland of International Importance designated under the international Ramsar Convention. It represents the last mile of natural shoreline on the U.S. mainland of the Detroit River and supports great biodiversity including: 51 species of fish, 90 species of plants, 154 species of birds, seven species of reptiles and amphibians, and 37 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

Because public participation is very important to the success of the project, the Service encourages your review and comments on the EA. The EA will be on public review for 14 days, with comments accepted via email or letter, or can be hand-delivered to the Refuge Office, through the close of business on May 22, 2015. The document is available electronically for review and comment online by visiting the refuge homepage at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River/. The document can be found on the front page under Refuge Updates titled "Draft Environmental Assessment for the Boat Dock & Fishing Pier at the Refuge Gateway Open for Public Comment". A hard copy of the document will also be available for review at the Refuge Office at 9311 Groh Road, Grosse Ile, MI 48138.

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